

303 Volleyball Club JNC Articles

303VBC 18 Elite

The 303 Volleyball Club 18 Elite team had come so close to qualifying at Crossroads (finishing 4th in the 18 USA division when top 3 got bids) and Big South (finishing 2nd in 18 American, when only the 1st place team got a bid). We also finished 10th at the Show Me Qualifier. The RMR JNQ was our last shot and we had a heartbreaking loss to Co Jrs 18 Sherri 23-24,26-24,14-16. We were devastated...then two days later, Wendy called to inform the team that we were eligible to receive a reallocation bid from USAV. Redemption!!! We were headed to JNCs! Elisa Elvove, Vy Tran, Courtney Harms and Rachel Szczepanski would be making a return trip to JNCs for 303, while Alli Walker, Hannah Ikeler, Jess McGhee, Ashley DiFulvio, Shelby Ksiazek and Meaghan Rupprecht would be there for the first time representing 303. In addition, we brought a couple of players up from our 16 Elite team – Grace Ditzenberger and Erin McCarthy.

We started out in a 6 team pool, seeded 2nd with Central Cal Gold (#2 seed overall), Austin Jrs 18 Navy, Alabama Jrs 18-1, Sudden Impact 18 Tsunami (from Washington State), and Union 18 Timberlake.

We had 3 matches on Day 1, and the team played well enough to win in each match. Not our best play, but a win is a win when you are at JNCs. We defeated Union 25-19, 20-25 and 15-5, and followed that up with another 3 set match winning 24-26, 25-20, 15-8 against Austin Jrs 18 Navy. We finished out with a better effort against SIVBC 25-18, 25-23. Overall, a good first day!

Day 2 had us playing two matches. The first match was against Alabama Jrs and the team played well winning 25-16, 25-15. Our last match was for 1st place in pool against Central Cal Gold. We won the first game 25-22 and were feeling positive. We dropped the next set 18-25 and then fell in the 3rd set, 10-15. 2nd in pool meant we accomplished our first goal, as we guaranteed ourselves a finish in the top half of the teams.

Day 3 had us in a 3 team pool with Blocksport 18 Nike out of Texas, and the number 1 seed overall, and the prohibitive favorite to win it all, Austin Jrs 18 Mizuno. We had a big lead against Blocksport in Game 1, but Blocksport fought back and made it close – we hung on for a tough victory - 27-25. The second game was back and forth as well, but we lost 20-25. Unfortunately, we came out flat in Game 3 and lost. Next up, Austin Jrs. Well...they certainly showed us they deserved the #1 seed as they beat us handily. We then had a challenge match to get into the Bronze bracket.

Southwind Rising 18-1 out of Kansas City had won their bid at Northern Lights, and it was a tough battle. Ultimately, we played tough and won 25-10, 20-25, 15-10. It was a good victory for us, and we were proud of how the girls fought back after dropping the two early matches and getting knocked out of gold medal bracket contention.

The final day of play had us facing Wichita Power 18-1 who we had played at the Show Me Qualifier. Their team nicknamed was "The Incredibles" and for good reason with 3 kids going to D1 schools on scholarship. We won handily in the 1st set, as the girls were on fire – 25-16. We knew they would fight back, and they did. We lost a close 2nd set 20-25. The third set was evenly matched as well, but our season ended with that last set. It was a wonderful season full of memories, capped off by great competition at the Junior National Championships!

303 VBC
18s Club Division
Reno JNCs – Summer, 2013

Team Roster

AJ Areniego, Nathan Bean, Chandler Brown, Zach Garcia, Ian Bryne, Karsten Guth, Gage Sedillo, Nate Stein, Nikitas Medrano, Coy Williams (injured, not able to attend)

Coach – Jeff Phillips

Another summer, another JNCs! This summer, the boys of 303 headed west to Reno. In the first round of pool play, 303 was in the pool with Ohana (CA), Balboa Bay (CA), and Pilipia'a (HI). It was a tough pool with experienced teams from California and Hawaii, but the boys were able to play with perseverance and worked hard for each point they won. In the second day, they were in the pool with AVA (TX), BaytoBay (CA), and Hitman (IL). With more confidence and with the team starting to gel with one another, the team left this day with 2 wins under their belts! (vs. AVA, 25-23, 25-23 and vs. BaytoBay, 25-23). Some great play digs, hits, and defense against BaytoBay and AVA. On the 3rd day of pool play, they were in pool play with IMUA (Northern CA), NVC (IL), and Panthers (PA). All three matches were hard-fought and the boys played their hearts out. 303 eventually lost to IMUA in 3 games. In the final day - single eliminations, the exhaustion of such a long tournament began to set in. The team played the Orlando Gold and battle through the first game, but lost 25-23 and then lost the 2nd game to end the tournament.

When not playing at the Reno Convention Center, the boys enjoyed eating at the Black Bear diner (almost every night) which served quite the awesome comfort foods (sweet cream pancakes, amazing chicken fried steak skillet, lava cake, chicken pot pie, and real ice cream shakes), Capriotti's Sandwich place, and In and Out Burgers). Some of the boys were able to go visit Lake Tahoe and take in the Cirque de Soleil Escape Show. For a team, which had played together for less than 1 month (brought on 4 new teammates), we give kudos for their valiant efforts and drive. Many of them are returning next year, so we look forward to playing in Houston next summer!!

303 VBC

17s Club Division
Reno JNCs – Summer, 2013

Team Roster

Jason Rhee, Joel Dawes, Matt McDonald, Shadd Carter, Jared Delgado, Tristan Vang,
Triston Bernard, Steven Black, Kenny Difulvio

Coach – Brad Houser and Erik Rhee (filling in for Scott Martensen)

Reno or Bust!

That was the motto for our 17s team. The first day of pool play was difficult as they were in the pool with the number 1 seed TVA (Puerto Rico), and two other teams from California – Pali and Ohana. However, the boys (which half of them had only started playing club this year) played with amazing mettle, especially against TVA from Puerto Rico, which in the first game they were able to take the game to 25-20.

SO CLOSE!!! vs. TVA (#1 Seed)

Maybe knowing that they were on the live streaming court strengthened their resolve to player harder, taking Pali (in the 3rd match) to 3 games. In the 2nd day, they played again with lots of moxie – winning the match vs. SONS (FL) – 25-17, 25-20, taking Molten 17 (AZ) to 3, and losing to Panthers (PA) in 2 hard fought games. In the last day of pool play, the 17s were up against First Capital (PA), IMUA (CA), and Vegas Extreme (CA). Power outages (35 minute delay due to dust and thunderstorms) and colorful calls by refs seemed to have not helped the 17s team's efforts on this 3rd day. On the final day – single elimination – 303 once again had to face the Panthers from Pennsylvania. Hoping to capitalize on the Panthers' early sleepy demeanor, the 303 boys played hard but could not overcome the experience and late game awakened Panthers and lost 25-22. 25-19 (an improved score from the 1st match 2 days earlier).

Off-court, the boys enjoyed the amenities at the Grand Sierra (very accommodating hosts) and if one ever has to stay in Reno, we would definitely recommend the hotel. There is bowling, a good buffet, a nice pool and hot tub, and a sand court (where they were able to meet and have more friendly volleyball play with other teams). They also really enjoyed their teammates' (Triston, Tristan, and Jared) palatial suite, feeling like

kings, pretending to be card sharks during the down time (why not, we are in Reno). We look forward to Houston next summer!

A Serious Group of Guys

some of them.....